

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ADE)**  
**INNOVATIVE AND EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS DIVISION**

**ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS (ABOR)**  
**HIGH HONORS TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP**

**REVISED: February 24, 2006**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. What is the statute reference for this program?**

*A.R.S. 15-1626.13 states the General Administrative Powers of the Board (ABOR) to develop and implement an Honors Endorsement Program for the purpose of recognizing (Arizona) high school students for outstanding academic achievement, as demonstrated through test scores.*

**2. When did ABOR approve the revised Honors Tuition Waiver Scholarship?**

*At the August 2003 ABOR meeting, Superintendent Horne suggested a change in the criteria that emphasizes high academic achievement as demonstrated through class work and exceeding standards on the AIMS HS assessments. At their April 2004 meeting, the ABOR voted to transfer the administration of the Regents Honors Endorsement Program to the ADE and approved the revised criteria.*

**3. When will the revised criteria take effect?**

*The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will begin administering the program during the 2005-06 school year. Scholarships will be awarded to qualified students graduating in the Class of 2006.*

**4. Is it unfair to the current seniors (Class of 2006) to start with them now? Why aren't you starting with the current freshman class as the group to receive this scholarship?**

*The High Honors Tuition Waiver was first advertised November 2004. The majority of the criteria to earn a full tuition scholarship was already in place through the university admission process, and the pilot analysis confirmed that the majority of the same students who did well on AIMS HS, had also met the "already in place" criteria to earn a tuition scholarship.*

**5. Does a student need to be a citizen of the United States to qualify?**

*A student would need to have legal residency in the United States in order to qualify. Check with Customs and Immigration for details regarding legal residency requirements.*

**6. Does the scholarship apply to community colleges as well as the universities?**

*No, this scholarship applies only to the state universities. The community colleges have scholarships available to students who graduate in the top 15% of their graduating class. Please contact them directly about the financial assistance available to you.*

**7. When will the High Honors Scholarship awards be determined?**

*High Schools will submit a preliminary list (on appropriate form) via CD to ADE by March 31, 2006. ADE will compile the list and send it to each of the universities by April 14, 2006. A final list of eligible students will be sent from each high school to ADE on July 2006. ADE will then again compile a complete list and forward it to all three universities.*

**8. Will all of the state universities abide by the top 5% of the class rank as a qualifier for this award?**

*All of the state universities have agreed to make the tuition scholarship awards based upon the criteria stipulated in the official language of the Arizona Board of Regents. Ranking in the top 5 % of the graduating class is one possible criteria of the scholarship requirement as stated in Part II, Option 2: Class Rank.*

**9. Who will determine the qualifications for transfer students?**

*The public high school in which a transfer enrolls is responsible for determining placement into class rank and grade point average. Transfer students must meet the same criteria for the scholarship, including scores on AIMS HS. Students entering schools after AIMS HS administration in the spring semester may not qualify unless they have AIMS HS results from their previous school. Other states' standards exams may not substitute for the AIMS HS.*

**10. Do students have to have financial need to qualify? Can they accept this scholarship in addition to other scholarship offers?**

*This is considered a merit-based scholarship; therefore, students do not need to demonstrate financial need in order to qualify. However, all students are encouraged to file the FAFSA form regardless of financial status. Students who receive other scholarships which cover the cost of tuition may not accept this ABOR scholarship. Students would accept the higher of the scholarship amounts offered, but not both.*

**11. Is this the only tuition scholarship assistance available to graduates?**

*No, other tuition assistance is available. Contact the financial aid office at the university you are interested in attending. Financial awards vary from university to university so they are your best resource for up to date information fitting your individual circumstances.*

**12. My child does not meet the criteria for this scholarship. Is there money to help him achieve a college education?**

*Yes. Speak with your high school counselor and/or contact the financial aid office at a community college or university. Financial assistance is available in the form of grants, loans, work-study, and other scholarships. In order to be considered for financial assistance, you will be asked to file the family financial statement (FAFSA) that contains information used to calculate your financial need. The colleges and universities then use this information to determine what type of assistance they are able to offer.*

*Listed on the ADE website are links to the universities, as well as to sites which provide financial aid information. Visit financial aid websites in your quest for dollars to support a college education and work closely with school counselors throughout the college admissions process.*

**13. How did the ABOR come to the decision to add AIMS HS as part of the criteria to qualify for this scholarship?**

*Superintendent Horne requested that ABOR conduct a critical analysis, using the Class of 2000, the first class to pilot AIMS HS. The results demonstrated that the great majority of those from the Class of 2000, who are now attending one of the state universities on full tuition scholarships, had also EXCEEDED the Standards on all 3 test of the AIMS HS as referenced in the Part 3 criteria while in high school. Therefore, it was concluded that most students who did well on AIMS HS also qualified for the tuition scholarships.*

**14. How many times can a student retake the AIMS HS to “EXCEED” standards?**

*Students may participate in AIMS HS testing for the first time in the spring of their sophomore year. Additional testing opportunities are available during the fall and spring of their junior and senior years.*

**15. Who will cover the costs associated with retaking the test to Exceed standards?**

*There is no cost to the student associated with retaking the test. The ADE will pay for the retests.*

**16. What has the ADE done so far to establish this scholarship opportunity?**

*The ADE established a special task force to assist ADE and ABOR in transitioning the administration of the program, as well as establishing a statewide communication plan. The Task Force consists of representation from the three state universities, high school principals, counselors and teachers, ADE, ABOR, the College Board, and International Baccalaureate Program.*

- 17. How will you handle private school and home-schooled students who enter the public school during senior year?**

*It is up to the local school to determine placement into class rank, to determine course grades and award credits. The ABOR and universities will accept the local school determinations. Part III of the criteria will still apply.*

- 18. How can small and rural school students qualify for the tuition scholarship when their schools do not offer Advanced Placement Courses or the International Baccalaureate Program?**

*Advanced Placement tests are available for students to take on the Internet through the College Board. Students might take an AP course as an Independent Study at their home school. They are advised to work with their counselors and administration if they want to pursue the AP course of study. ADE is investigating alternative means to offer AP courses to small and rural community schools through a web-based delivery system.*

- 19. How can students in private schools or those being home schooled access this scholarship opportunity?**

*This award is available to public and private school students who meet the criteria. Students enrolled in home schooling are advised to contact the university financial aids offices for information on how to avail themselves of scholarship resources. This is but one of many scholarship opportunities to assist students in pursuing a college education.*

- 20. How are you calculating the cumulative GPA in Part II, Option 1? Is it the GPA colleges use for admission (core course), or ALL grades from classes taken?**

*The Arizona Board of Regents accepts the calculation of the GPA submitted by the public high school, which may be inclusive of all courses taken. This is a local school district decision.*

- 21. My daughter is in the 8th percentile for class rank, and she has exceeded all 3 AIMS HS. She has a 3.50 GPA on a 4.0 scale. She has a B in the core classes. Are you telling me she is guaranteed this award?**

*Yes, students meeting Part I, II, and III are guaranteed this scholarship. In this case, your daughter would be eligible for the High Honors Tuition Scholarship based upon her AIMS HS scores, her cumulative GPA, and her B's in all sixteen core classes.*

- 22. I have a B or better in every single core course, except Geometry Honors. I got a B in the first semester, a C in the second semester. Could I still qualify if I have B or better in Honors Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Honors Precalculus, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of Honors Geometry?**

*You must have a grade of B or better in **EACH** semester of your core course work. If you took no additional math semester you would not meet the qualifications. However, if you took Calculus, for example, and received a B or better, it could replace the semester of C you received in the Honors Geometry. You could also retake the Honors Geometry semester, or replace it with regular Geometry for a higher grade if the high school district allows this.*

- 23. My son/daughter is part of a gifted programs and tests out of a core course(s). Is he/she still qualified for the tuition scholarship?**

*Yes, ABOR has agreed to accept a student “testing” out of a core course if credit for the course was given and/or the student was subsequently enrolled in a higher level course.*

- 24. My daughter/son took high school algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and received high school credit. Will that count as a core course or “B or better”?**

*Yes, ABOR has agreed to accept any core course taken in junior high school for high school credit.*

*Testing out of a core high school course and receiving credit will also count towards meeting Part I of the scholarship criteria.*

*Core courses earning credit at the college level also counts towards meeting Part I of the scholarship criteria.*

- 25. Does a student have to obtain a grade of B or better in each semester and/or quarter of a core course?**

*A student must obtain a B or better in the unit in which **credit** is issued (i.e. quarter, semester)*

- 26. Does a B or better have to be earned in American/US History?**

*Although American/US History is a core requirement for Arizona University Admissions and high school graduation, **ANY** two social science credits with a B or better can be used to qualify students for the High Honors Tuition Waiver.*

**27. What is the process for applying for this scholarship?**

*There is not an "application" associated with this scholarship opportunity. Each local school will compile a final list of their students who meet the High Honors qualifications based upon completion of the 8th semester of high school. Schools will receive direction for this final submittal by the end of March. Awards and notification should be made by the end of July or beginning of August.*

**28. What is the value of the award?**

*Value of the first year tuition and renewability at the same fixed value for an additional 3 years (6 consecutive semesters) and transferable from university to university based upon **university-established** criteria. The actual dollar amount could vary from school to school.*

**29. Once the list is submitted to the universities, how are the awards handled?**

*The universities will cross-reference the list with students admitted to enrollment. Student accounts are adjusted accordingly. Tuition already paid by a student is credited back to the student account. Students do not need to provide independent verification of the award. Questions should be directed to the appropriate university financial aid office.*

**30. What is the latest date that I can begin to use the award?**

*The award is available beginning the Fall after a student graduates from high school and can be used no later than the Spring college semester following graduation.*

**31. Can the use of the scholarship be deferred?**

*Yes, it may be deferred. Students should contact a financial aid officer to discuss individual circumstances related to deferment.*

**32. How will students be notified that they have qualified for the scholarship?**

*ADE will encourage each high school to notify their students of their inclusion on the list sent to ADE. A letter of congratulations and an award certificate will be sent on behalf of Superintendent Horne.*

**33. Who should I contact at the ADE for additional clarifications to my questions?**

**Ms. Maxine Daly**  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Phone: 602-542-5510  
Fax: 602-542-3100  
1535 West Jefferson Street, Bin 32  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Email: [mdaly@ade.az.gov](mailto:mdaly@ade.az.gov)

**Ms. Shannon Tucker**  
Project Program Specialist  
Phone: 602-542-4391  
Fax: 602-542-3100  
1535 West Jefferson Street, Bin 32  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Email: [stucker@ade.az.gov](mailto:stucker@ade.az.gov)